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OUTDOOR SPECTATOR COVER

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to the invention of a novel cover which encloses the lower portion of the body of a person who is exposed to the cold and sometimes wet conditions ~~which~~ obtain^{ing} at sporting events such as football or soccer games or any other outdoor activity. The present application claims priority based upon provisional patent application 60/209404, D filed JUNE 1, 2000 by the same inventor as this application.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of protective devices or garments primarily intended for use by spectators at sporting events. Many of such sporting events are presented in large stadiums designed to hold tens of thousands of people on floor and seats of concrete, metal, wood, or other hard heat conducting surfaces. In many such outdoor stadiums, the stadium receives heavy snow or rain or both and the depth of moisture in the stadium is often more than six inches. For this reason, waterproofing to at least that depth is exceedingly important for a spectator cover.

Description of the Prior Art

The closest prior art known to the applicant is shown in U.S. patents 5,283,909 and 3,597,764 and 2,242,130. None of these patents shows either the physical structure or the function taught by the present invention. In particular no known structure for such a personal cover shows the combination of flexibility, warmth, and waterproof qualities necessary for

1 the active spectator. The bottom of the cover on which the feet
2 of the spectator rest must be flexible for the spectator to
3 remain properly balanced while moving, stomping and cheering yet
4 dry and warm. The present invention meets all of these
5 objectives. The present invention permits the spectator who is
6 wearing the cover to retain a tactile sense of the surface on
7 which he or she is standing through the very thin bottom surface
8 of the cover which is highly flexible yet waterproof.

9 *Summary of the Invention*

10 The present invention teaches, in two embodiments, novel
11 spectator covers, generally made of a soft flexible, insulated,
12 waterproof or water resistant material. The present inventive
13 cover must retain sufficient flexibility to enable the user to
14 retain his or her balance in an environment where the spectator
15 is physically active in cheering and mobile enough to permit
16 other spectators to pass by him or her in moving across the row
17 of seats commonly found in a modern sports arena.

18 *Brief Description of the Drawings*

19 Figures 1 shows a front perspective view of one embodiment
20 of the present invention.

21 Figures 2 and 3 are front perspective views of the
22 embodiment shown in Figures 1 showing the upper and lower
23 portions of the present invention.

24 Figure 4 is a sectional view of the lower portion of the
25 present invention taken along the lines 4-4 shown in Figure 3.

1 Figure 5 is a partial perspective view of the upper portion
2 of the present invention showing a second embodiment of the
3 upper portion of the invention.

4 Figure 6 is ^a front perspective view of the present invention
5 in its carrying cover forming part of the present invention.

6
7 *Description of the Preferred Embodiment*

8
9 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the
10 present invention in which a novel cover 10 for a spectator at a
11 sporting or other outdoor event is shown. The cover has a
12 generally tubular or cylindrical shape open at one end and
13 closed at the other end and having about a twenty inch diameter
14 and an axial length of about forty-five inches. The lower
15 portion of the cylinder 15 is formed of a two-part multi-layer
16 material with a waterproof base of about twenty inches in
17 diameter and eight inches in axial length when finished. The
18 waterproof base has an inner insulated layer 44 as shown in
19 Figure 4. The outer layer 40 may be a vinyl or plastic and the
20 inner layer may be wool, cotton, or any other insulating
21 material. The lower portion of the base is formed from an
22 essentially flat circular member 16. The upper portion of the
23 base 14 is formed from a similar material as the lower portion
24 but shaped in a rectangular form ~~such~~ that when attached to the
25 base it forms a cylinder about eight inches in axial length and
about twenty inches in diameter closed at one end.

1 The upper portion of the bag 11 is formed of a wind and
2 water resistant material such as dense or tightly woven nylon
3 material for an outer layer 12. Upper portion 11 also has an
4 inner layer 13 of double sided fleece material of wool, cotton,
5 or other suitable fabric which is both soft and flexible.

6 The upper portion 11 of the bag is able to be opened along
7 the major part of its axial length to permit the user easy entry
8 to the bag as shown in Figure 2 and attached Appendix A ~~inside~~
9 ~~front cover~~ which is hereby incorporated by reference into this
10 application. Along the axial portion of the bag on either side
11 of the opening are mating hook and loop fastening material 28
12 and 29 (although a zipper or other fastener could be substituted
13 for the hook and loop closure).

14 At the other end of the bag, away from the base 15 is
15 formed, usually by sewing, a runway 22 through which runs a cord
16 24 formed of polyester or nylon. The cord ^{exits} ~~exists~~ the runway
17 either at the ends thereof 21, 23 or through eyelits 123, 125
18 shown in Figure 5 formed in the runway at both ends. If the
19 eyelits 21, 23 are employed, the ends of the runway 22 are
20 closed as shown in Figure 5. The cord has a "barrel stop" 30 or
21 similar termination to prevent the cord from sliding into the
22 stitched runway.

23 A plurality of pockets 20 and 50 are attached to the bag.
24 One pocket 50 is inside the bag at the upper or waist level and
25 the other 20 on the outside of the bag at a level between one-
third to one-quarter the distance from the base of the bag.

1 Either or both pockets 20,50 may be closed by either a mating
2 hook and loop closure 54, 52 or any other suitable closing
3 structure.

4 The entire bag is able to be fitted in a carry bag 60, shown in Figure
5 6, cylindrical in shape, with a rimmed top 64 with a runway 66 which has an
6 opening 68 for a two cord shoulder strap 62 which acts as a closure for the
7 carry bag. A clasp 70 is attached to the carry bag to enable its attachment
8 to the bag while the ^{spectator cover} bag is itself in use.

9 The embodiments of the present invention which have been
10 shown and described are illustrative of the main principles of
11 the invention but the following claims shall not be limited to
12 the embodiments shown. The claims are intended to cover and do
13 cover those variations of the invention which are apparent to
14 those skilled in the art.

15 Claims

16 I claim:

17 1. A cover for a spectator at sporting events comprising:
18 a first soft, flexible cylindrical upper member ^{has an upper and lower end and} having an
19 inside and outside member in which the upper member is able to
20 be opened and closed to permit the insertion of the lower
21 portion of the body of the spectator;

22 the upper member outside member is formed of a wind and
23 water resistant material and the inside member formed of a heat
24 insulating material;

25 the upper member has near its upper end a runway member to
receive a closure member for closing the upper member tightly
about the body of the spectator;